

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 17 and 32 being the independent claims. In the Official Action, dated May 5, 2005, claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-18, 21-22, 25-33, 36-37 and 40-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by US Publication No. 2002/0002562 A1 (Moran). Claims 3-4, 19-20 and 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moran in view of US Patent No. 6,570,582 (Sciammarella). Claims 7, 23 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moran in view of US Patent No. 6,014,135 (Fernandes). Claims 8, 24 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moran.

The outstanding rejection to the claims based on the art of record is respectfully traversed based on the present amendments and below remarks.

Summary of the Invention

At the time of Applicants' filing of the present application, though users of computers could access and share data indirectly among various applications, techniques for organizing and harnessing the data were inadequate. Simply put, there was no technology that provided unique representation of events, places, people and things as user interface elements representing items of a digital history based on unique identification.

The invention thus provides a user interface that makes cross-correlations for events, places, people and things stored in a digital history store. The events, places, people and things are displayed in a way that makes sense for a time period of interest specified via a timeline. In various embodiments, the events, places, people and things are displayed in a navigation portion relating to the time period of interest in way that intuitively expresses a

relative presence of the events, places, people and things in a user's life for the time period, where the navigation portion allows the user to quickly navigate to items of interest.

In some embodiments of the invention, based on frequency and recency usage patterns, and/or user preferences, items are assigned relative weights and displayed accordingly in the timeline portion and navigation region of the user interface. Each item that can be displayed within the system has a unique identification, which may be translated to one or more visual symbols within the user interface.

Moran and the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

In contrast to the invention, as discussed in Applicants' previous response and developed more fully herein, Moran cannot be considered to teach or suggest displaying elements associated with events, people, places and things relating to the time period of interest on the timeline. For instance, nowhere can Moran be said to teach or suggest "displaying from the user's digital history store on the timeline elements associated with events, people, places and things relating to the time period of interest, **wherein each event, person, place and thing has a unique icon associated therewith,**" as recited in claim 1.

Starting with events, for support that Moran displays "from the user's digital history store on the timeline elements associated with events relating to the time period of interest, wherein each event has a unique icon associated therewith," the Official Action refers to paragraphs [0047], [0141], [0198] and [0232] of Moran. Taking these in turn, paragraph [0047] is understood by Applicants merely to disclose various aspects of an exemplary graphical user interface (GUI) environment. Paragraph [0141] is merely understood to

disclose that a user may create new objects or make specific annotations relating to a session which may be displayed in subsequent replays of the session. Paragraph [0198] states:

A point and click operation on the different visual indicators may cause different things to occur. In each case, the subsequent playback of the timestreams will be set to the time corresponding to the beginning of the visual indicator. In the case of Notes, a window containing the text in the note is opened. The occurrence of such an operation is illustrated in Fig. 13. **Referring to Fig. 13, the visual indicator 1301 has been pointed to and the switch on the cursor control device clicked. This causes a text window 1302 to be opened containing the text generated during the meeting (here the text “Good Point Made By Betty. Need to Use that Argument in Meeting With the Boss”).** It should be noted that the text window may also be presented in a different location outside the time track display area.

And finally, paragraph [0232] is understood merely to disclose that when time indicator 1703 in the timeline interface 1702 is moved to just before visual indicator 1604, the LiveBoard window 1701 is updated to display what was on the LiveBoard at that instant of time.

Paragraphs [0047] and [0141] appear irrelevant to the question. Paragraph [0198] merely discloses a text window popping up in response to selection of a note icon corresponding to text recorded in a meeting, and each note of Fig. 13 is given the same icon (a triangle), teaching directly the opposite of the invention “wherein a unique icon” is required for each event on the timeline.

And, Paragraph [0232] merely is understood to disclose that movement of the time indicator 1703 restores the displayed whiteboard drawing to that time, e.g., removing the word “redundancy” from the whiteboard. However, nowhere is Fig. 17 understood to disclose displaying “on the timeline elements associated with events relating to the time period of interest, wherein each event has a unique icon associated therewith.” First, a meeting, while an event, is what the entire timeline of Fig. 17 represents. However, the meeting is therefore, by definition, not displayed as an event on the timeline, as required by claim 1. Claim 1 also

requires that each event have a unique icon. Assuredly, Fig. 17 cannot be said to teach or suggest displaying meetings each having a unique icon on the timeline.

Thus, nowhere can paragraphs [0047], [0141], [0198] and [0232] be said to teach or suggest “displaying... on the timeline elements associated with events relating to the time period of interest, wherein each event has a unique icon associated therewith,” as required by claim 1, and similar arguments may be applied to claims 17 and 32.

Further deficiencies of Moran can be found with respect to people, places and things as well. For instance, with respect to people, while “Adam,” “Betty,” and “Charles” are displayed in Fig. 13, the names are not displayed *on the timeline*, as required by claim 1, but rather are conspicuously displayed to the left of the timeline.

With respect to the display of places, Fig. 14 was relied upon in the Official Action. However, there is no timeline at all in Fig. 14. Therefore, Fig. 14 cannot be said to teach or suggest “displaying... on the timeline elements associated with places relating to the time period of interest, wherein each place has a unique icon associated therewith.”

With respect to the display of things, Fig. 14 was again relied upon in the Official Action. However, as mentioned, there is no timeline at all in Fig. 14. Additionally, computer icons 1404 and 1405 are given the same icon, even though they are different things. Thus, paragraph [0201] and Fig. 14 cannot be said to teach or suggest “displaying... on the timeline elements associated with things relating to the time period of interest, wherein each thing has a unique icon associated therewith.” Similarly, with respect to Fig. 13, if notes are considered things, each receives the same icon (the triangle), teaching away from the present invention requiring a unique icon for each thing.

With respect to claims 17 and 32, each reciting “a display mechanism that displays events, people, places and things relating to the time period of interest from the user’s digital history store on the timeline, Moran cannot be said to teach or suggest displaying *on the timeline* at least events, places or things, as discussed above, and thus are believed allowable over Moran for the same reasons as presented above with respect to claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to claims 1, 17 and 32 is thus earnestly solicited.

Claims 2-16, 18-31 and 33-44 depend from base claims 1, 17 and 32, respectively, either directly or indirectly, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Sciammarella and Fernandes were cited for reasons relating to the dependent claims (recency analysis and drag and drop, respectively), but also fail to cure the above-identified deficiency of Moran with respect to Applicants’ independent claims. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the above-identified claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 is respectfully requested.

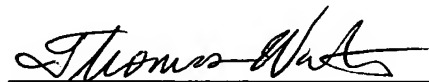
DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0741/188840.01
Application No.: 10/032,309
Office Action Dated: May 5, 2005

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that Claims 1-44 of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

Date: July 1, 2005



Thomas E. Watson
Registration No. 43,243

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439